Appl. No. 10/766,404
Reply to 3/31/2008 Office Action

US20010207
Sheet 2 of 8

## Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

## Listing of Claims:

1 - 11. (Canceled)

12.    (Currently Amended) A method of washing items during a wash cycle in an automatic washer having a wash chamber rotatable about a central axis, the method comprising the steps of:

loading items into the wash chamber;

supplying wash liquid into the wash chamber; and

oscillating the wash chamber about the central axis through a clockwise angle of rotation and a counter-clockwise angle of rotation with speed varying oscillations, the speed varying oscillations being maintained to effect less than a one gravity centrifugal force on the items such that the items will tumble in said wash chamber, the oscillations comprising a series of oscillations operating at a first oscillation speed and a second, different, oscillation speed, in which the wash chamber is alternately operated at the first speed, then the second speed, then the first speed again and then the second speed again.

13.    (Withdrawn)  The method of claim 12, wherein the angle of rotation traversed by the wash chamber during each clockwise and counterclockwise rotation remains fixed throughout the wash cycle.

Appl. No. 10/766,404
Reply to 3/31/2008 Office Action

US20010207
Sheet 3 of 8

14.     (Original)     The method of claim 12, wherein the angle of rotation traversed by the wash chamber during each clockwise and counterclockwise rotation varies throughout the wash cycle.

15.     (Original)     The method of claim 12, wherein the rotation of the wash chamber pauses for a length of time between each clockwise and counterclockwise rotation.

16.     (Withdrawn)   The method of claim 15, wherein the length of each pause is identical throughout the wash cycle.

17.     (Original)     The method of claim 15, wherein the length of each pause varies throughout the wash cycle.

18.     (Withdrawn)   The method of claim 12, wherein the speed of rotation of the wash chamber changes at specific fixed time intervals.

19.     (Withdrawn)   The method of claim 12, wherein the speed of rotation of the wash chamber changes at varying time intervals.

20.     (Original)     The method of claim 12, wherein the speed of rotation of the wash chamber varies randomly.

21.     (Original)     The method of claim 20, wherein the speed varies within a predetermined range of a base speed.

22.     (Withdrawn)   The method of claim 12, wherein the speed of rotation of the wash chamber varies according to a predetermined pattern.

23.     (Withdrawn)   The method of claim 12, wherein the speed of rotation of the wash chamber changes upon the occurrence of a specific event.

Appl. No. 10/766,404
Reply to 3/31/2008 Office Action

US20010207
Sheet 4 of 8

24.    (Withdrawn)   The method of claim 23, wherein the specific event comprises each wash chamber rotation reversal.

25 - 40.      (Canceled)

41.    (Previously Presented)        The method of claim 12, further comprising providing a speed varying oscillation signal from a controller to a motor to alternately rotate the wash chamber about the central axis through a clockwise angle of rotation and a counter-clockwise angle of rotation with speed varying oscillations.

42.    (New)  The method of claim 12, wherein other, different, oscillation speeds occur in between the first and second speeds or the second and first speeds.

43.    (New)  A method of washing items during a wash cycle in an automatic washer having a wash chamber rotatable about a central axis, the method comprising the steps of:

    loading items into the wash chamber;

    supplying wash liquid into the wash chamber; and

    oscillating the wash chamber about the central axis through a clockwise angle of rotation and a counter-clockwise angle of rotation with speeds of rotation being maintained to effect less than a one gravity centrifugal force on the items such that the items will tumble in said wash chamber, the oscillations comprising a series of oscillations operating at a first rotational speed then a second rotational speed faster than the first rotational speed, then a third rotational speed slower than the second rotational speed, then a fourth rotational speed faster than the third rotational speed.

44.    (New)  The method of claim 43, wherein other, different, oscillation speeds occur in between the first and second speeds.

- 4 -

Appl. No. 10/766,404
Reply to 3/31/2008 Office Action

US20010207
Sheet 5 of 8

45.     (New) The method of claim 43, wherein the speed of rotation of the wash chamber varies randomly.


46.     (New) The method of claim 43, wherein the speed of rotation of the wash chamber varies within a predetermined range of a base speed.


47.     (New) A method of washing items during a wash cycle in an automatic washer having a wash chamber rotatable about a central axis, the method comprising the steps of:

loading items into the wash chamber;

supplying wash liquid into the wash chamber; and

oscillating the wash chamber about the central axis through a clockwise angle of rotation and a counter-clockwise angle of rotation with speeds of rotation being maintained to effect less than a one gravity centrifugal force on the items such that the items will tumble in the wash chamber, the oscillations comprising a series of oscillation periods in which the wash chamber oscillates at a first rotational speed in a first oscillation period and then at a plurality of rotational speeds different from the first speed in subsequent periods of oscillations.


48.     (New) The method of claim 47, wherein the speed of rotation of the wash chamber varies randomly.


49.     (New) The method of claim 47, wherein the speed of rotation of the wash chamber varies within a predetermined range of a base speed.